

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL ARTICLE BY DIPLOMATIC REPORTER, STEWART HENSLEY TO BE RELEASED SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, TITLED "HENRY KISSINGER: A DEMOTION TO MORTALITY."

2. THE MILD-MANNERED HARVARD PROFESSOR WHO BECAME "SUPER HENRY" IN A TELEPHONE BOOTH AND FLEW AROUND THE GLOBE AVERTING CATASTROPHE HAS HUNG UP HIS CAPE. HENRY A. KISSINGER'S DAYS AS DIPLOMATIC MIRACLE MAN HAVE COME TO AN END.

3. THE SECRETARY OF STATE ACKNOWLEDGES HIS FALL TO THE RANKS OF MERE MORTALS IN PHILOSOPHIC TERMS TO BLUNT THE SHARP EDGES OF REALITY, BUT OTHERS HAVE BEEN LESS GENTLE.

4. MEMBERS OF CONGRESS -- PARTICULARLY DEMOCRATS -- HAVE SERVED NOTICE THAT KISSINGER'S IMMUNITY TO CRITICISM NO LONGER EXISTS AND THAT HIS POLICIES AND TACTICS WILL RE-
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CEIVE CLOSER SCRUTINY IN THE FUTURE.

5. "CONGRESS HAS DISCOVERED THAT AT LEAST KISSINGER'S TOES -- IF NOT HIS FEET -- ARE MADE OF CLAY," ONE POLITICAL OBSERVER SAID.

6. KISSINGER SAYS THIS NEW SKEPTICAL ATTITUDE IS ONLY NATURAL AND INDEED "INEVITABLE" AS AMERICANS SHIFT ATTENTION FROM WATERGATE TO OTHER PRESSING DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN PROBLEMS.

7. DESPITE THREATS TO RESIGN IF HIS NEWFOUND CRITICS PERSIST IN THEIR ATTACKS, KISSINGER HAS GIVEN NO HINT HE REALLY INTENDS TO QUIT WITHIN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. AND PRESIDENT FORD, WHO INHERITED KISSINGER FROM HIS DISGRACED PREDECESSOR, HAS STOUTLY DEFENDED THE FOREIGN POLICY ADVISER WHO BY ALL ACCOUNTS WAS THE CROWNING JEWEL IN RICHARD M. NIXON'S CABINET.

8. KISSINGER TOLD THE NEW YORK TIMES RECENTLY HE WOULD RESIGN ONLY IF HE LOSES FORD'S CONFIDENCE OR FAILS TO RECEIVE "THE DEGREE OF CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT AND THE DEGREE OF PUBLIC SUPPORT" HE WANTS.

9. BY THAT REMARK, KISSINGER GAVE THE IMPRESSION HE IS THE FIRST SECRETARY OF STATE, AT LEAST IN MODERN TIMES, TO REQUIRE THE APPROVAL OF A PUBLIC CONSTITUENCY, IN ADDITION TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF NOMINATION BY THE PRESIDENT AND CONFIRMATION BY THE SENATE.

10. KISSINGER'S EASILY BRUISED EGO BECAME APPARENT LAST JUNE WHEN HE REACTED EMOTIONALLY TO SUGGESTIONS BY SOME MEMBERS OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE THAT HE MIGHT HAVE COMMITTED PERJURY ABOUT NIXON-ERA WIRETAPPING OF REPORTERS AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS.

11. LATER, IN AN ALMOST INCREDIBLE SCENE, KISSINGER CALLED A SPECIAL NEWS CONFERENCE IN SALZBURG, AUSTRIA, DURING A NIXON TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST TO THREATEN RESIGNATION UNLESS THE SENATE COMMITTEE GAVE HIM A NEW VOTE OF CONFIDENCE.

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12. TODAY, KISSINGER FINDS HIS POWER SOMEWHAT SUBDUED UNDER A NEW PRESIDENT WHO, ALTHOUGH WEAK ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IS NOT SUFFERING NIXON'S HANDICAP OF OPERATING UNDER THREAT OF INDICTMENT OR FORCIBLE REMOVAL FROM OFFICE. FORD HAS SIGNALLED HIS INTENTION TO HANDLE HIMSELF SOME OF THE MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY ANNOUNCEMENTS WHICH KISSINGER ALMOST AUTOMATICALLY MADE IN NIXON'S BEHALF.

13. KISSINGER ALSO CAN SEE THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL
IN THE FOLLOWING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS:

14. -- CONGRESS VOTED AN EARLY CUTOFF OF U.S. MILITARY

AID TO TURKEY UNLESS IT WITHDRAWS ITS TROOPS FROM CYPRUS,
A MOVE WHICH PREVAILED DESPITE STRENUOUS OBJECTIONS BY
FORD AND KISSINGER.

15. -- SEN. HENRY M. JACKSON, D-WASH., SUCCEEDED IN
FORCING FORD AND A RELUCTANT KISSINGER TO GET SPECIFIC
ASSURANCES FROM THE SOVIET UNION ON EASING EMIGRATION OF
RUSSIAN JEWS TO ISRAEL AS THE PRICE FOR WASHINGTON'S
APPROVAL OF LEGISLATION LIBERALIZING U.S. TRADE WITH THE
RUSSIANS.

16. -- SHARP SENATE CRITICISM OF KISSINGER'S SANCTION OF
A SECRET EFFORT, INVOLVING THE CIA AND OTHERS, TO SUPPORT
POLITICAL ELEMENTS THAT EVENTUALLY OVERTHREW THE MARXIST
GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT SALVADORE ALLENDE IN CHILE. THE
SENATE THEN VOTED TO SLASH U.S. MILITARY AID TO THE
MILITARY JUNTA THAT OVERTHREW ALLENDE.

17. -- CONGRESS DISMISSED KISSINGER'S PLEAS AND MADE
HEAVY CUTS IN U.S. MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE
THIEU GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

18. PART OF KISSINGER'S TROUBLES IN CONGRESS STEM FROM
LONG-SIMMERING RESENTMENT OVER HIS ABILITY TO CONVINCE
SOME IMPORTANT LEGISLATORS AND JOURNALISTS THAT HE AND
HIS UNQUESTIONED NEGOTIATING SKILLS WERE INDISPENSABLE
TO WORLD PEACE.

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19. THE PUBLIC, TOO, WAS APPARENTLY SOLD. IT WAS WIDELY
BELIEVED THAT KISSINGER ORIGINATED THE DIPLOMATIC BREAK-
THROUGHS IN RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA IN
1972. IN FACT, IT WAS NIXON WHO PERCEIVED THE POSSIBILI-
TIES OF GAINING SOME LEVERAGE IN THE BITTER DISPUTE
BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNIST POWERS, AND LEFT IT TO KISSINGER
TO CARRY OUT THE GRAND PLAN.

20. WHATEVER HIS CRITICS SAY ABOUT KISSINGER'S REPUTATION
EXCEEDING HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS, NONE WILL PRIVATELY DISPUTE
THE VALUE OF HIS TIRELESS EFFORTS TOWARD A MIDDLE EAST
PEACE, OR HIS GRASP OF THE INTRICACIES AND IMMENSE DANGERS
IN THE EAST-WEST NUCLEAR ARMS RACE.

21. KISSINGER'S SUCCESS IN ENDING AMERICA'S LONG, AGONIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE VIETNAM WAR HAS EARNED HIM MIXED REVIEWS. SOME HAVE ARGUED HE COULD HAVE DONE THE JOB IN MUCH LESS THAN FOUR YEARS.

22. ALSO, KISSINGER'S ERRATIC COURSE IN DEALING WITH DIPLOMATIC ASPECTS OF THE OIL CRISIS TENDS TO SUPPORT HIS

ADMISSION THAT HE KNOWS LITTLE -- IF ANYTHING -- ABOUT ECONOMICS.

23. SIMILARLY, KISSINGER SEEMS INSENSITIVE TO THE STRONG EFFECT OF DOMESTIC POLITICS ON FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS. THE PRIME EXAMPLE BEING HIS DECISION TO "TILT" IN FAVOR OF TURKEY AND AGAINST GREECE IN THE CYPRUS BLOWUP.

24. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER HIS AIDES FAILED TO REMIND HIM OF THE VOCIFEROUS U.S. CONSTITUENCY OF GREEK-AMERICANS, OR WHETHER HE DELIBERATELY CHOSE TO FAVOR TURKEY FOR ITS GREATER VALUE TO THE NATO ALLIANCE AND HOPE HIS REPUTATION WOULD CARRY THE DAY.

25. KISSINGER'S MOST ARDENT CRITICS ACKNOWLEDGE THAT HIS IMPACT ON THE TURN OF WORLD EVENTS HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE, AND THAT HE CANNOT BE DISMISSED SIMPLY AS A SLICK DIPLOMATIC OPPORTUNIST.
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26. THE FINAL VERDICT MIGHT DEPEND ON THE DIMINUTIVE, GERMAN-BORN PROFESSOR'S ABILITY TO DEAL NOT ONLY WITH FOREIGN CRISES BUT WITH DOMESTIC POLITICAL CRITICISM THAT UPSETS HIS ADMITTEDLY SENSITIVE EGO. (END TEXT) INGERSOLL

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